Title: The Higher Price of Gutting the CFPB

Subtitle: ***Americans foot the bill for the Trump-Vought Attack on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau***

In February 2025, the Trump Administration and Acting Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Director Russ Vought launched their attack on the CFPB, an agency dedicated to protecting Americans from frauds and scams. A new report by the Minority Staff of the Senate Banking Committee finds that the Trump-Vought effort to hollow out the CFPB over the last year and a half has **cost the American public up to $26.5 billion.**

In February 2026, the Minority Staff of the Senate Banking Committee released a report showing that President Trump's efforts to illegally shutter the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) cost Americans up to $19 billion in 2025 alone.[1] By dropping enforcement actions and settlements, rescinding agency rules and consent orders, and gutting the agency's consumer complaint program, President Trump and Acting CFPB Director Vought left consumers paying more while letting bad actors off the hook. Since then, President Trump and Acting Director Vought have refused to reverse course — and once again, Americans are paying the price. Our findings suggest that **the Trump Administration's continued failure to put consumers first at the CFPB has cost Americans up to an additional $7.5 billion in the first six months of 2026.**

President Trump promised to lower costs on "day one." Instead Trump and Vought are dismantling the financial cop on the beat that has returned over $21 billion to Americans cheated out of their money by big banks and giant corporations.[2] The Administration must change course, empower the CFPB, and protect Americans' pocketbooks.

FINDINGS

The Minority Staff of the Senate Banking Committee previously found that the Trump Administration's work to end enforcement actions, drop settlements and consent orders, rescind rules, and gut the agency's consumer complaint program — on top of trying to bleed the CFPB of any funding — cost American consumers up to $19 billion. This new report analyzes the ongoing cost of Trump and Vought rescinding two major rules that would have saved Americans money in 2026.

1. **Rescinding the Credit Card Late Fee Rule has cost consumers up to $15 billion so far.**

In 2024, the CFPB took action to save Americans up to an estimated $10 billion a year in credit card late fees.[3] Credit card companies are supposed to only charge fees necessary to recover their

[1] Minority Staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, "The Price of Gutting the CFPB," February 9, 2026, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/cfpb_year_in_review_report.pdf
[2] National Consumer Law Center, "Fast Facts: CFPB by the Numbers," December 2, 2024, https://www.nclc.org/resources/fast-facts-cfpb-by-the-numbers/.
[3] U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, "CFPB Bans Excessive Credit Card Late Fees, Lowers Typical Fee from $32 to $8," press release, March 5, 2024,

costs for late payments, but a legal loophole allowed them to charge consumers billions of dollars in junk fees.[4] In 2024, the CFPB issued a rule to cut late fees for large credit card issuers from roughly $32 to $8, which would have savedAmericans an estimated $10 billion a year.[5] But in April 2025, three months into President Trump's term, the CFPB reversed course and agreed with the credit card lobby in federal court that the rule should be vacated.[6] Now, big credit card companies can continue to profit off the excessive junk fees charged to millions of Americans. **<u>Americans lost out on</u>** up to $10 billion in savings from the credit card late fee rule in 2025 alone.[7] From January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, because the Trump Administration has not reversed course and reinstated the rule, Americans have lost out on up to an additional $5 billion in savings that they would have received had the agency capped credit card late fees.[8] **In other words, Trump and Vought's agreement to vacate this rule has cost Americans up to $15 billion so far.**

2. **Rescinding the Overdraft Fee Rule has cost consumers up to $7.5 billion so far.**

The CFPB finalized a 2024 rule that would limit the overdraft fees that could be charged to many customers to $5 and would have saved Americans up to $5 billion annually.[9] Overdraft and non-sufficient fund (NSF) fees are "one of the most common exploitative mechanisms big banks use" to extract money from low-income consumers.[10] Under the CFPB rule, these fees would be limited to $5 per transaction for consumers at many of the country's largest banks and credit unions.[11] However, Republicans in Congress and the Trump Administration overturned the rule

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https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/newsroom/cfpb-bans-excessive-credit-card-late-fees-lowers-typical-fee-from-32-to-8/.

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

[6] Joint Motion for Entry of Consent Judgment, Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, No. 4:24-cv-00213-P (N.D. Tx. Apr.14, 2025), Dkt. No. 149, https://www.uschamber.com/assets/documents/Motion-for-Judgment-Chamber-v.-CFPB-N.D.-Tex.pdf.

[7] U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, "CFPB Bans Excessive Credit Card Late Fees, Lowers Typical Fee from $32 to $8," press release, March 5, 2024, https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/newsroom/cfpb-bans-excessive-credit-card-late-fees-lowers-typical-fee-from-32-to-8/; Student Borrower Protection Center and Consumer Federation of America, "Trump's Consumer Financial Protection Agenda—or Lack Thereof—Has Already Cost Americans At Least $18 Billion," Allison Preiss, June 24, 2025, https://protectborrowers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MEMO-The-Cost-of-Trumps-CFPB-.pdf, p. 1.

[8] This amount was calculated by pro-rating the $10 billion per-year estimated savings from the CFPB's credit card late fee rule for the first six months of 2026. .

[9] CNN, "Overdraft fees crackdown: Biden administration sets new rules for banks," Jordan Valinksy, December 12, 2024, https://www.cnn.com/2024/12/12/business/cfpb-overdraft-bank-fees-rules; Student Borrower Protection Center and Consumer Federation of America, "Trump's Consumer Financial Protection Agenda—or Lack Thereof—Has Already Cost Americans At Least $18 Billion," Allison Preiss, June 24, 2025, https://protectborrowers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MEMO-The-Cost-of-Trumps-CFPB-.pdf, p. 2.

[10] Business Insider, "Predatory banks rake in billions of dollars in overdraft fees from their poorest customers every year. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is trying to put a stop to it.," Paul Constant, December 11, 2021, https://www.businessinsider.com/how-predatory-banks-rake-billions-overdraft-fees-against-poorest-users-2021-12.

[11] U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, "CFPB Closes Overdraft Loophole to Save Americans Billions in Fees," press release, December 12, 2024, https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/newsroom/cfpb-closes-overdraft-loophole-to-save-americans-billions-in-fees/.

in 2025, with one Republican congressional leader calling the rule "government overregulation."[12] As a result, many Americans are continuing to pay $35 overdraft fees, even if their overdraft was only a few dollars.[13]

Americans lost out on up to $5 billion in savings from the overdraft fee rule in 2025 alone.[14] From January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, because the Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress overturned the rule, Americans have lost out on an additional $2.5 billion in savings they would have received.[15] **In other words, the Trump Administration's decision to rescind this rule has cost Americans up to $7.5 billion so far.**

CONCLUSION

Since its founding in 2011, the CFPB has worked to protect consumers from unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices. By providing a fair and safe financial marketplace, it has returned over $21 billion to people scammed by Wall Street's deceptive practices. Instead of empowering consumers, President Trump and Acting Director Vought have undermined the agency and cost Americans hard-earned money. The unlawful dismantling of the CFPB must end so that American families can have the protections they deserve.

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[12] Ballard Spahr LLP, "Trump signs resolution nullifying CFPB overdraft rule," Ballard CFS Group, May 12, 2025, https://www.consumerfinancemonitor.com/2025/05/12/trump-signs-resolution-nullifying-cfpb-overdraft-rule.

[13] Student Borrower Protection Center and Consumer Federation of America, "Trump's Consumer Financial Protection Agenda—or Lack Thereof—Has Already Cost Americans At Least $18 Billion," Allison Preiss, June 24, 2025, https://protectborrowers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MEMO-The-Cost-of-Trumps-CFPB-.pdf, p. 2.

[14] CNN, "Overdraft fees crackdown: Biden administration sets new rules for banks," Jordan Valinksy, December 12, 2024, https://www.cnn.com/2024/12/12/business/cfpb-overdraft-bank-fees-rules; Student Borrower Protection Center and Consumer Federation of America, "Trump's Consumer Financial Protection Agenda—or Lack Thereof—Has Already Cost Americans At Least $18 Billion," Allison Preiss, June 24, 2025, https://protectborrowers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MEMO-The-Cost-of-Trumps-CFPB-.pdf, p. 2.

[15] This amount was calculated by pro-rating the $5 billion per-year estimated savings from the CFPB's overdraft rule for the first six months of 2026.